

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of creating a digital computer model of the craniofacial features of a person, comprising the steps of:

creating a first computer model of the person's facial features;

producing a physical model of the person's teeth;

creating a second computer model of said physical model of said teeth; and

integrating said first computer model and said second computer model into a master computer model.

2. The method according to Claim 1, further including the step of creating a third computer model of the person's skull.

3. The method according to Claim 2, further including the step of integrating said third computer model into said master computer model.

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4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of creating a first computer model includes the sub step of scanning the person's face in a plurality of poses with a laser scanner.

5. The method according to Claim 4, wherein said step of creating a first computer model includes taking a plurality of digital photographs of the person's face.

6. The method according to Claim 5, further including the sub step of combining data from said scans and said digital photographs.

7. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of creating a second computer includes the sub step of scanning said physical model of said teeth with a laser scanner.

8. The method according to Claim 1, further including the step of creating a bite jig having an orientation plate that extends outside the mouth.

9. The method according to Claim 8, further

including the steps of:

scanning the patient's head while biting
the bite jig to create a first collection of data points;

coupling said physical model of said
teeth to said bite jig in a subassembly; and

scanning said subassembly to create a
second collection of data points.

10. The method according to Claim 9 wherein said
step of integrating said first computer model and said
second computer model includes orienting said first
computer model with said second computer model using said
first collection of data points and said second
collection of data.

11. The method according to Claim 2, wherein said
step of creating a third computer model, includes the sub
steps of:

generating a generic skull model;

inputting data corresponding to the skull of
the person;

altering the generic skull model to correspond
to the data corresponding to the skull of the person.

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12. A method, comprising the steps of:

creating a three-dimensional computer model of a person's craniofacial features, that includes skeletal features, dental features and facial features; animating said computer model.

13. The method according to Claim 12, wherein said step of creating a three-dimensional computer model includes the sub steps of:

creating a first computer model of the person's facial features;

producing a physical model of the person's teeth;

creating a second computer model of said physical model of said teeth; and

integrating said first computer model and said second computer model into a master computer model.

14. The method according to Claim 12, wherein said step of animating said computer model includes creating a theoretical appearance of craniofacial features and animating said computer model between modeled craniofacial features and said theoretical appearance.

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15. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said step of animating said computer model includes animating said computer model to mimic actions selected from a group consisting of chewing, grinning, smiling, growing and aging.

16. The method according to Claim 14, further including the step of creating a third computer model of the person's skull.

17. The method according to Claim 16, further including the step of integrating said third computer model into said master computer model.

18. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said step of creating a first computer model includes the sub step of scanning the person's face in a plurality of poses with a laser scanner.

19. The method according to Claim 18, wherein said step of creating a first computer model includes taking a

plurality of digital photographs of the persons' face.

20. The method according to Claim 19, further including the sub step of combining data from said scans and said digital photographs.

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